

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Federal Aviation Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2007. I am joined by BART GORDON, Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, as an original cosponsor of the Act.

This legislation is focused on ensuring the FAA will have the tools that it will need to keep the Nation's air transportation system safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly. To that end, the act reauthorizes a range of important R&D activities at the FAA, starts up new initiatives in some key areas, and contains provisions aimed at strengthening the interagency Joint Planning and Development Office, JPDO, which has the responsibility of planning and developing the Next Generation Air Transportation System, NextGen.

With respect to the JPDO, the act responds to the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office, GAO, as well as other expert witnesses that the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee heard from at our recent hearings by including provisions aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the JPDO. These include such things as: (1) strengthening the authority of the JPDO Director; (2) requiring each participating agency or department to identify a senior official to be in charge of its activities in support of the NextGen initiative; (3) requiring an integrated plan with date-specific timetables for implementation of NextGen capabilities; (4) requiring the JPDO's Senior Policy Committee to meet at least four times per year; (5) having OMB coordinate each agency or department's budget in support of the NextGen initiative; (6) directing JPDO to develop contingency plans for dealing with degradation of the NextGen system due to a natural disaster, major equipment failure, or act of terrorism; (7) requiring the JPDO to establish noise, emissions, and energy consumption requirements for the NextGen system; (8) directing JPDO to develop an R&D roadmap for the integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the national airspace system; (9) having GAO carry out annual reviews of JPDO's effectiveness.

As important as the JPDO and the NextGen initiative are, the act recognizes that the FAA, in coordination with other agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, has a critical role to play in supporting other important aviation R&D activities, a number of which have been underfunded in recent years according to the testimony of the GAO and FAA's own R&E advisory committee. To that end, the act augments the President's funding requests for human factors research, weather research, unmanned aircraft systems research, and energy- and environment-related research.

In addition, recent announcements from Europe regarding the potential imposition of emissions penalties on aircraft operations in the next decade have made it clear that the United States needs to better understand the

impact of aviation on the climate as well as what might be done to mitigate that impact. This legislation takes the first step in that direction by directing the FAA, in coordination with NASA and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program to develop a plan for such research and then having the National Research Council carry out an independent assessment of that research plan.

The Nation's colleges and universities have an important role to play in carrying out research in support of the Nation's future air transportation system. At the same time, that research is a critical means of helping to train the next generation of scientists, engineers, and aviation specialists that we will need over the coming decades. Thus, this act establishes a research grants program involving undergraduate students. It also contains provisions aimed at strengthening FAA's Centers of Excellence program.

The act also contains R&D provisions to continue engine research, in coordination with NASA, that has the goal of enabling existing general aviation aircraft to operate with unleaded aviation fuel. In addition, the legislation continues the Airport Cooperative Research Program and also establishes a runway research program that should benefit both general aviation and commercial air carrier airports.

Finally, in view of the increased importance of space weather to aviation, especially with the increased incidence of flight operations over the polar regions, the act establishes a multi-agency research program to conduct research on the impacts of space weather on aviation and air passengers.

Madam Speaker, air transportation is central to the Nation's economic well-being, our international competitiveness, and our quality of life. FAA's R&D programs play an important role in ensuring the continued safety and efficiency of America's air transportation system, and I believe that the Federal Aviation Research and Development Reauthorization Act of 2007 will keep FAA's R&D enterprise healthy and productive.

CELEBRATING THE POST, TEXAS, CENTENNIAL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, It was an honor to join the residents of Post, TX, on June 3, 2007 to celebrate the community's centennial.

As the Congressman for the 19th district, I often travel back and forth from Lubbock to the southern part of the district around Abilene. One of my favorite parts of the trip up and down U.S. Route 84 is approaching Post and looking across the caprock in the distance.

During my trips to each of the district's 27 counties, I also have developed an even deeper appreciation for many of the other qualities that make west Texas so special. Our region is home to the best people in the world who are always ready to welcome you into their hometowns.

Another quality that makes west Texas special is the strong sense of patriotism that so

many West Texans possess. We see this patriotism in the great numbers of young people who volunteer to defend freedom and protect American citizens by serving in the United States military.

This tradition continues on today. It continues in the form of young men and women like Colter Creech from Post. Colter—who has the distinction of being accepted into two military service academies—will attend the United States Air Force Academy beginning this summer.

Colter is a fine example of the type of young people that come from Post and towns like it across west Texas. He is smart, patriotic, and understands the importance of serving his country. Our freedom and the freedoms of millions across the globe will depend on fine young Americans like Colter.

As the residents of Post reflect on and celebrate their history, they can also look forward to a promising future knowing that the west Texas values that have sustained their community through the years continue to do so today.

ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, let us give praise to the longevity of Zion Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Tennessee as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of their founding. Many churches are often the social center for the communities they serve. Zion has long been ministering to the spiritual needs of Maury Countians and striving to provide a better life to those living abroad during their many mission trips.

Founded in 1807 by descendants of Scottish and Scott-Irish Presbyterians, the first house of worship was erected in the center of the 5,120 acres of land they purchased from the heirs of General Nathaniel Greene. With a strong commitment to God and their faith in the human spirit, may Zion Presbyterian Church continue their outreach and ministry.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIL AIR PATROL
CADET TECHNICAL SERGEANT
CHRISTINE SPECHT FOR PLACING
SECOND IN THE CAP 2007 NATIONAL
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION
POSTER CONTEST

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Technical Sergeant Christine Specht for placing second in the CAP 2007 National Drug Demand Reduction Poster Contest.

Since 1994, the CAP has hosted the Drug Demand Reduction Program to promote and support education, community involvement, social responsibility, and respect for others. This year, the competition was sponsored by

the National Headquarters of the CAP at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, and open to distinguished members of the Cadet Program from all fifty states and two territories.

Cadet Technical Sergeant Specht entered the contest inspired by the CAP core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence and Respect and by her desire to instill those values in her subordinate cadets. As a staunch opponent of any form of drug abuse, Cadet Technical Sergeant Specht believes we should all do our best to live up to these core values.

I could not agree more.

Madam Speaker, on March 26, 2007, she was awarded the CAP's second place honors for her extraordinary ability to impart those values through artwork. Today, in honor of her legendary dedication to bettering the citizens of Michigan and of her contributions to the CAP, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cadet Technical Sergeant Christine Specht for her loyal and selfless service to our community and our country.

HONORING REVEREND DR.
SAMUEL SIMPSON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Reverend Dr. Samuel Simpson, Pastor of Bronx Baptist and Wake Eden community Baptist Churches in the Bronx was born in Jamaica West Indies. He relocated to the United States in the early sixties. He and his wife Lola Campbell have three children and five grandchildren. He is well known in the Bronx and the West Indian communities throughout the State and beyond.

In addition to leading the Bronx and Wake Eden congregations, Rev. Simpson has been instrumental in starting the Honeywell Baptist Chapel, and a newer mission in the Spring Valley area. Grace Baptist Chapel in the northern section of the Bronx is an offshoot of Bronx Baptist Church. Rev. Simpson also communicates his strong belief in helping people via the media, and writes a weekly column for the Carib News. Periodically he is heard on Family Radio and has been the subject of three books: "What God did for Me," "Sam Simpson, Architect of Hope," and his most recent "To Dream the Impossible Dream."

He serves in many capacities in the Baptist denomination. Among his leadership roles has been President—Baptist Convention of New York for two terms, and Moderator—Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. Other areas of service were: President and Board Chairman of Protestant Council of Churches of New York, President, Bronx division of Council of Churches, Chairman of the Board and President, Bronx Shepherds Restoration, and Board Member, Northeastern Bible College. Rev. Dr. Simpson is a true man of God and a firm believer in serving the total person. He has worked tirelessly for his community both within and outside the Bronx seeking to improve the temporal and spiritual aspects of his congregation and his community.

We are a stronger, better community for his work.

CONGRATULATING THE INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Independence, Missouri School District for receiving a 2007 Community Schools National Award for Excellence. This prestigious award is bestowed upon only two other areas in our nation by the Coalition for Community Schools, honoring communities that demonstrate a commitment to creating community schools.

The Independence School District has worked tirelessly through its "Inspiring Greatness Initiative" to put public schools at the center of a connected community. To do this, the Independence School District has initiated programs that serve children, families, and the community before, during, and after school. In this way, the public schools become a hub for the larger community, connecting families and resources.

The "Inspiring Greatness Initiative" has had many successes. "Kids' Safari," the school district's before and after school program, which has been studied by Yale University, has resulted in increased classroom performance; greater self-reliance and task completion; and better school attendance, with students in the program attending significantly more days of school per year than those not in the program. In addition, the Independence School District is reaching out to families, providing over 17,000 home visits by social workers in 3 years, and running programs that result in 80 percent of children having contact with the school district before Kindergarten.

The Independence School District is a model of community participation in our schools. Each school has a Site Council, bringing together parents, teachers, students, and community members to assess and address the needs of the school and the neighborhood. In turn, the schools actively give back to the community, providing countless volunteer hours. With the help of the Local Investment Commission, the Independence School District has created a web of partnerships between government, business, and families, with community schools at the center. These partnerships are renewing community involvement and participation.

Madam Speaker, please join me on this wonderful occasion in congratulating the Independence School District; its dedicated staff, students and parents; its outstanding Superintendent, Dr. Jim Hinson, who recently received the distinguished 2007 Robert L. Pearce Award from the Missouri Association of School Administrators; and its superb Board of Education. Their hard work and unwavering commitment are a source of pride to the Fifth District of Missouri, and I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing sincere congratulations to the Independence School District for this remarkable achievement.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA M. TOY, FOR HER DISTINGUISHED CAREER SERVING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished career of Laura M. Toy, former Michigan State Senator representing the 6th District of Wayne County.

Throughout her career, Senator Toy improved the lives of countless citizens. Born on December 22, 1951, Senator Toy was raised in Livonia, Michigan, where she still resides today. After graduating from Livonia's Bentley High School, where she was president of her graduating class, she earned an Associate of Arts degree from Schoolcraft College, and thereafter a Bachelor of General Studies Degree from the University of Michigan.

Senator Toy began serving her community at a young age. A longtime small business owner, as a child she first sold pot holders to the neighbors to purchase clothes for her sister, Carol. She also sold penny candy to neighborhood children out of her garage, and was a member of the local Girl Scouts council. Later in her career, Senator Toy became a 28 year co-owner of Cardwell Florist in Livonia and a 7 year member of the Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees. With tireless devotion, she dedicated her time to improving the community as a Livonia City Council member for 8 years, the Livonia City Treasurer for 3 years, and as the 19th District Michigan State Representative for 4 years.

Thereafter, on November 7, 2002, Senator Toy was elected to the Michigan State Senate. During her tenure, Senator Toy served as Chair of the Local, Urban and State Affairs, Senior Citizens and Veteran Affairs Committees, and Vice Chair of the Commerce and Labor Committee; and previously as Vice Chair of the Technology and Energy Committee. The sponsor of 22 Public Acts, she championed efforts to enhance Michigan's educational system, strengthen small businesses, and promote the rights of people with disabilities.

For her unwavering commitment to excellence, she has earned a number of prestigious awards, including: the Livonia Women of the Year and Outstanding Young Women of America awards, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Athena Award, the YMCA Honorable Legislator Award, the University of Michigan Alumni Community Service of the Year Award, and the Schoolcraft College Alumnus of the Year Award. The Association of the Retarded Citizen also recognized her efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities in 2000 with the Legislator of the Year award.

Senator Toy attributes her inspiration to the loved ones around her, including: her mother, Eileen Toy, who passed away in April of 2006, disabled brother Glen, who also passed away in 1998, sister Carol, brother Bruce, niece Corrin, nephew Christopher, and long-time business partner, Colleen Siembor. In return, her compassion, dedication, and loyalty continues to inspire all who know her.

Madam Speaker, during her distinguished career, Senator Toy has bettered the lives of